

Anne Fesh

From: Frank Cuta [cuta@bentonrea.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2000 11:53 AM
To: 'info@acb.org'
Subject: I Support Descriptive Video

Dear FCC,

My name is Frank cuta. I have been blind for the past 35 years and only recently have I realized the tremendous increase in access that descriptive video brings to movies and television. Now I too can enjoy those long silent passages where the nasty villin is creeping through the night with his knife ready to commit his murderous crime.

Please give your support to descriptive video under "MM Docket number 99-339.

Frank Cuta
58903 Sweetwater PRNE
Benton City, WA 99320

Anne Fesh

From: William Wilson [willie@telerama.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2000 2:17 AM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I Support Descriptive Video

X-UIDL: b3aaa825d63695c3e35231fa4bb26d99

William J. Wilson
170 Lincoln Ave.
Apt. 1
Pittsburgh PA 15202-3904

Phone: 412-766-8511 Email: willie@telerama.com

As a blind citizen of this great country, I am being denied complete access to what is overwhelmingly the greatest purveyor of information and news to the populace. This injustice, however, could be rectified just as it has been for the deaf community with the implimentation of Descriptive Video Captioning! Therefore, let it be known that I support MM Docket number 99-339 and all legislation directed towards giving me equal access to television!

William J. Wilson

Net-Tamer V 1.11.2 - Registered

Anne Fesh

From: Mary Grace Lodico [mglodico@primeline.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2000 3:47 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mary Grace Lodico and I live at 335 East Street in Waynesville, N C 28786. I am blind and definitely support the F C C guidelines regarding descriptive video: M M dockett no.99-339.

As a blind person, I feel that I have the same right as everyone else to enjoy what is happening on the T V screen. I become very frustrated when trying to watch T V with the long silences that sometimes occur with no explanation. It is also frustrating when a commercial comes on or there are closings which are written on the screen. Not being able to see what is written, I miss out on these commercials and announcements. I feel I have a right to be able to get such information and descriptive video would help me to do so.

Please consider these needs and allow descriptive video to come into being.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Grace Lodico

Anne Fesh

From: Gary LeGates [legates@smart.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2000 4:11 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video

To Whom It May Concern a5t FCC

My name is Gary LeGates and I live at 530 Poplar Avenue, Westminster, MD 21157. I support descriptive video under MM docket number 99-339. This service is important to me because both my wife and I are totally blind and need this service to get the same on-screen information as others get simply from seeing it. Thank you for giving this letter your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Gary LeGates

Anne Fesh

From: Tim Keenan [tkeenan@student.umass.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 12:53 AM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I Support Descriptive Video

Name: Timothy Keenan
Address: 60 Hapgood Way Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Status: totally blind

I fully support the American Council of The Blind's efforts to bring more descriptive video to the blind community. I also wish to express my support for the FCC's recent stance on descriptive video (Docket No. 99-339). I am indeed saddened and angered by the National Federation of The Blind's political decision to oppose descriptive video. It is a sad day indeed when blind community leaders elect to hold on to old rivalries rather than promote the common good of the blind.

Sincerely,
Tim Keenan
tkeenan@student.umass.edu

Anne Fesh

From: tim cumings [thc@world.std.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 10:06 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video

Thomas Cumings
1662 Commonwealth Avenue #62
Brighton Ma 02135

I am a blind United States citizen and I support whole-heartedly the
Federal Communications Commission's proposed rules for descriptive video
(MM Docket No. 99-339.

Anne Fesh

From: KaeAnn Rausch [karaus@mediaone.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 6:05 AM
To: info@acb.org
Cc: Jerry Berrier
Subject: I Support Descriptive Video

I can't begin to express how important this topic is to those of us unable to experience video communication as fully sighted consumers! So much of what is communicated in the media is targetted to the sense of sight that, for those of us deficient in this sense, comprehension and enjoyment are impossible...except with the aid of audeo description! This invaluable technology provides access for thousands of blind and partially sighted people who are otherwise excluded from the majority of what television, cinema and live theatre have to offer. Please support the efforts of those striving to make equal accessibility a reality for those of us challenged by blindness and vision impairment. This technology, utilized with other important adaptive technologies such as closed captioning, will help to make our world more accessible to all persons, regardless of disablility. Thanks, in advance, for your enthusiastic support!

Anne Fesh

From: Elaine Vining [mev2@usfamily.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 10:32 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Descriptive Video

I support descriptive video and I am blind. I feel that all programming should be like the deaf. My name is Mike Vining and I live at 5257 Logan Ave No, Minneapolis, MN 55430. I want to support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No. 99-339.

Mike Vining

Anne Fesh

From: Berna Specht [BERNA@HIWAAY.NET]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 10:53 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support Descriptive Video

I am writing in support of proposed descriptive video MM docket 99-339.

I am a VI senior citizen who enjoys the details furnished by the video describer. Although I can see much of the broad actions, I do not get the minute details such as expressions, and the written messages.

I do enjoy C-SPAN, but am frustrated when the name of the speaker is flashed on the screen but not spoken. If it is advisable that the sighted viewer be reminded of the identity of the speaker, could it not be just as interesting to the blind or VI viewer to know?

I appreciate the fact that the Federal Communication Commission has proposed rules for making television broadcasts accessible to blind and visually impaired users.

Berna Specht
378 Pinehurst Dr.
Talladega, AL 35160

Anne Fesh

From: Ann McCay [annmccay@home.com]
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2000 10:29 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support Descriptive Video

My name is Ann McCay
6519 20 Avenue, N.E.
Seattle, WA 98115.

I am blind and support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339.

Thank you.

Ann McCay
E-mail: annmccay@home.com

Anne Fesh

From: judy [jsterlin@suffolk.lib.ny.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 2:13 AM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support Descriptive Video

to The Federal Communication Commission,

My name is Judy Sterling. I live in New York, Long Island and I am totally blind. I have had the opportunity to experience the Descriptive Video Service and I have found it to be very helpful in understanding of a movie. This access to the visual information on the screen allows me to enjoy a movie as a person with vision does just by simply watching the screen.

I am in full support of this type of adaption for all persons who are blind or visually impaired.

My address is 17 Grove Pl. Babylon, NY 11702.

Sincerely,

Judy Sterling

President of the American Council of the Blind Suffolk County Long Island

Anne Fesh

From: Winifred Downing [wdowning@primenet.com]
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2000 11:46 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptivevideo

I support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video (MM docket No. 99-339). I am a blind person who is deprived of the enjoyment and information that comes from most television programs because I live alone and have no one to tell me about the screen. I am Winifred Downing, 1587 38th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122.

Anne Fesh

From: Marcie Brink [mbrink@complink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 1:57 AM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video

I am writing to say that I am blind and for that matter, a member of ACB and I support descriptive video and want it to be available for all programs that are traditionally captioned currently for the deaf. If the deaf community has access to television in a form which they can use, we as blind people should have the same access. Please note that I support MM Docket No.99-339.

Marcie Brink
1013 Sheridan Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49001-4425.

Anne Fesh

From: Boaz, Susan [Susan.Boaz@mail.va.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 6:47 AM
To: 'Info@ACB.org'
Subject: I support Descriptive Video

Writer: Susan Boaz, 8715 1st Avenue, Apartment 1418C, Silver Spring, MD
20910; phone:
301-589-0889.

I support the FCC's Proposed Rules for Descriptive Video, Docket No. MM 99339. I am blind and believe I should have the same access to television programs as other people have including those who are profoundly deaf. Also, the National Federation of the Blind does not represent all blind people, and it definitely does not represent me. I am a member of the American Council of the Blind and belong to the American Council of the Blind of Maryland and am Acting Treasurer of our Silver Spring chapter called National Capital Area Chapter.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important matter.

Anne Fesh

From: Sheehan, Pat [Pat.Sheehan@mail.va.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 7:23 AM
To: 'info@acb.org'
Subject: I support descriptive video

I am writing to indicate my strong support of the FCC proposed rules on descriptive video docket MM 99339. This is a step in the right direction and I applaud the FCC for taking the initiative to make descriptive video for television programs a reality. It is impossible for me to over-state the benefits that this would bring to my life. If you have any further questions please contact Patrick Sheehan 14311 Astrodome Drive, Silver Spring MD 20906 (work) 202-273-6543 or (home) 301-598-2131.

Anne Fesh

From: Michelle Douglas [michelledo@mail.drs.state.wv.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 1:03 PM
To: 'info@acb.org'
Subject: I support descriptive video

My name is Michelle Douglas and my address is 860 Greenbrier Street Saint Albans WV 25177. I am blind and wanted to show my support for the FCC
> > proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339.
> >This will afford people who are blind equal access to more programming
> which was previously not accessible. *

Anne Fesh

From: Dee Clayton [clayton.dee@blind.state.ia.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 2:51 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: descriptive video

My name is Delia Clayton and by email address is
clayton.dee@blind.state.ia.us

I am writing about the Federal Communications Commission 99-339. There are a lot of blind people that I know including myself that would like to have more programs with descriptive video. I feel that this is as much our right as for the deaf people to have close caption for many programs. No, I do not know anything about the cost but I feel it could not be that much more than the close caption. There has been many times that I have wished that a program would have been described for me. When you live alone you do not have someone to tell you what is going on. Even when you live with someone they are not always watching the same thing you are and cannot be expected to be at your beck and call to help. I sincerely hope that you will make it possible for more programs and movies to be in descriptive video.

Thank you. Delia Clayton

Anne Fesh

From: Daniel B. Tonge [dtonge@mindspring.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 2:25 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I Support Descriptive Video Service

I am totally blind and have been since birth. I support DVS because a great deal of the import and meaning of television and movie content is visual. I didn't even realize how much information I had been missing until I was able to listen to the PBS DVS programming and movies with DVS. Even something as small as the credits in movies is informative, and something which sighted people take for granted. They can choose to attend to or not attend to that kind of information. Without DVS, we as blind people don't have the choice of whether or not to attend to any information other than the direct audio in the programming.

Address:
2612 NW 58th Street, #1
Seattle, WA 98107
Phone: 206-783-4755

Dan

Anne Fesh

From: Robert M. Jacobs [rjacobs@world.std.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 12:57 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support Descriptive Video

March 14, 2000

I wish to voice my opinion that descriptive video should be an integral part of television production in order to provide equal access to this media to all Americans. I am totally blind and since television is an important source of information and entertainment for me, I believe that it is important to allow me to enjoy the same freedom to access this media that the sighted community takes for granted. Before losing my sight, I applauded the industry's efforts to make closed caption available to the deaf community for these same reasons. Please have me on record as personally supporting the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Robert M. Jacobs
1056 Beacon Street, unit 3
Brookline, Mass. 02446
(617) 739-6471

Anne Fesh

From: Sharon Fridley [sharonf@mail.drs.state.wv.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 3:31 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I Support Descriptive Video

My name is Sharon Fridley, and not only am I a blind person myself, but I also hear from several other blind people who are citizens of my state. I support the FCC in its proposed rules regarding descriptive video services on television networks, not only for purposes for enhancing entertainment, but also to make accessible information regarding emergencies and other newsworthy items. I support mm docket No. 99-339.
Thank you.

Sharon Fridley, Program Consultant
Information and Referral Service for the Blind
West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services
State Capitol, Box 50890
Charleston, WV 25305-0890
sharonf@mail.drs.state.wv.us

(304) 766-4891

Anne Fesh

From: Sharon Strzalkowski [strzal@bicnet.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 4:08 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video

Sharon Strzalkowski
127 June St., Apt. 3
Worcester, MA 01602

I support the FCC rules that govern descriptive video, and look forward to more inclusion of this technology on TV shows that have formerly been out of reach for me as a totally blind person.

Anne Fesh

From: Walter Siren [wsiren@home.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 4:26 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive vicio

Walter siren
2354 Mendez Dr.
New Orleans LA 70122
Dear sir:

I am blind, and my wife and daughter are also blind, and we support the FCC's rules mm docket no. 99-339. Many times when we are listening to tv, and it gets silent, we would like to know what is going on.
Walter

Anne Fesh

From: Mann, Jean [G30770@dfa.state.ny.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 2:47 PM
To: 'info@acb.org'
Subject: i support descriptive video

I am writing this in support of FCC proposed rules for descriptive video, Docket No. 99-339.

As a totally blind person, I find it very frustrating to tune into a television program, only to find that some action which I couldn't see was critical to the plot of the story. And then there are those documentaries shown on some of the cable stations which have personal testimonies from the people involved. The names of the people are shown on the screen. I'd like to know who they are.

I occasionally go to the movies with friends. There are oftentimes long periods of time where no one is speaking. I am constantly asking my friends "What's happening now?" or, if I can tell by the sound that a certain action took place "Who did that?" Trying to explain to me what's going on certainly breaks their concentration. While we try to keep our voices down, I'm sure there have been times when other patrons in the theater would like to tell us to be quiet.

More and more I am hearing who is sponsoring closed captioning, and it's my understanding that every TV sold now is required to have the technology included so closed captioning can be made available if needed. I would give anything to be able to turn on my television set, or go to the theater to see a movie of my choice, and know that I would get the full benefit of the program or movie because it would be described. I have a whole collection of the DVS movies described by WGBH in Boston, and I never realized how much I was missing until I got them. How wonderful it would be to be able to walk into a store and buy any movie I wanted and know it would be described.

I would like to thank the FCC for all the work that has been done on behalf of descriptive video so far. I am sorry the television and motion picture industries are so reluctant to provide this service. It is obvious that they won't do it unless forced to do so by law. If only they realized the revenue that could be gained from it.

Please keep working to provide us with more video description. While some blind people claim it's not necessary, I have yet to find one who isn't thrilled with it once they have experienced it.

Thanks again for all the work you have done and continue to do in this endeavor.

Jean Mann
6D Downing Square
Guilderland, New York, 12084

Anne Fesh

From: Ardis Bazyn [abazyn@concentric.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 2:18 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support video description

I am a blind person who wants to support your efforts at getting more descriptive video available. I am referring to the FCC rulings on docket number 99339. Thank you very much.

Ardis Bazyn
500 S. 3rd Street, Apt. H
Burbank, CA 91502
(818) 238-9321

Anne Fesh

From: Richard Scott [rpharley@wt.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 1:30 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Discriptive Video;

Howdy,

This is from Richard and Peggy Scott in Dallas, Texas. We would like FCC to know that the two of us would really like to have Descriptive Video for the Blind.

Thanks
Richard and Peggy Scott rpharley@wt.net